[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar]

have also been defined. Government have no objection to the committees meeting once in three weeks. I want to reiterate what I stated not in regard to enforcing the regulations relating to the movement of rice and the purchase of rice as a whole, but in regard to the object of the Government that the excess stock should be made available for the rest of the population who are badly in need of rice.

Sahib Bahadur Abdul Tayeb Shaikh Kaderbhoy: May I know from the Honourable member why not Government fix some quota in order to get the surplus from the cultivators? Without fixing any quota there is no certainty as to what should be given to them. So I would suggest that those who are getting 500 paras may retain all that is needed for themselves and give the rest to the Government.

President: That aspect of the matter has been dealt with this morning.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Such an alternative method as has been suggested by the member is engaging the consideration of the Government so that the chief point to be borne in mind is that the surplus stock should be purchased by Government with a view to meet the requirements of the deficit areas in the State. That is important in view of the fact that we cannot definitely depend upon supplies from outside. In the light of the explanation given, I hope the Honourable member will withdraw his resolution.

The resolution was by leave withdrawn.

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO GRANT-IN-AID TEACHERS.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: Sir I beg to move the following resolution:

> **"Considering the great service which teachers in aided Malayalam schools are rendering to the State and the very low remuneration they are getting for their work, this Council recommends to Government that a dearness allowance of at least two rupees be given to them."**

It is not necessary, that an apostle of the poor is needed to move this resolution, because including the Honourable member Mr. Tampi every body will accept the need for this resolution. Since the Government have thought it fit to give a dearness allowance to those who get Rs. 15 and Rs. 20, which every one approves, we request that a dearness allowance of Rs. 2 may be given to those teachers who are getting Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 per month.

I am only speaking on two points so far as this resolution is concerned. One is that it will be a sad thing for us if the Government would consider that those who do the same kind of work

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outside the department are different from those inside. The Directors of Public Instruction including the present Director could have noticed that the work of the teachers in aided as well as unaided schools is the same. I expect Sir, that would be the feeling of the Government also. After all, these teachers are getting Rs. 8 or Rs. 10, they do the same work producing almost the same results if not better results, and therefore their case deserves particular consideration.

I know there are two objections that are generally given by the Government. The one is that managers are expected to contribute some thing to the teachers' salary. I want to deal with the practical aspect of the matter. I know very few managers give anything extra to these teachers. It is practically impossible for the managers to give anything extra financially. It is therefore I think that the Government have conceded that the teachers who are getting only Rs. 8 or 10 need sign only for these amounts in their acquittance rolls. My first request is therefore that the case of these hard-worked teachers should be considered on the same level as the teachers of Government schools.

The second objection is that even if the Government would give Rs. 2 allowance, the managers may have a share of it. A distinction has to be drawn between teachers who work under individual managements and those who work under organized institutions. So far as I know teachers who work under regular committees get as grants, the amounts given by Government. But I can't say in the same way about the teachers under individual managements. The Director knows all these things very well. We are gradually trying to create public opinion against taking any advantage of the poor teachers. And I believe that public opinion has its effect. For these two reasons I have tabled this resolution. The Teachers in aided schools work as hard as those in Government schools and I expect more or less that the same treatment may be meted out to them. And I am sure of that because of the statement made by the Dewan-President.

President: Government have to meet expenses in various directions such as the food control, usual grants to teachers, etc. How is it possible for Government to consider all the schemes that are proposed by the members?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: When the Government gets something like four crores of rupees I think it is the most appropriate time for Government to consider my proposition.

Mr. James Fletcher: I support the resolution. Sir, the teachers in grant-in-aid schools are doing as much good work as those in Government schools. The present and sudden change of affairs has hit the teachers hard. The labourers' pay has been

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[Mr. James Fletcher]

raised. They get what they demand, *viz.* one Re. per day. The Government servants who are getting a smaller pay have been given an allowance and all employees in various places—either in mills or other places—are given dearness allowance. What about these grant-in aid teachers? They get Rs. 8 or Rs. 10, but less than a day labourer for their expenses. How can a teacher in a Malayalam or Tamil School getting a pay of Rs. 8 or 10 keep his body and soul together? Sir, it will be an act of charity if immediate measures are taken to help them. As my friend suggested, whether the managers could be compelled to pay a certain amount of scarcity allowance or dearness allowance, is out of question, for most of these managers are not rich enough. Some of these organised institutions are giving scarcity allowance and others are not in a position to increase the salaries or increase the dearness allowance. Therefore, the duty of the Government is to come to their aid and increase the allowance. I am sure that the Director of Public Instruction, who has got an interest in Government school teachers, has the same interest in the welfare of these poor grant-in-aid school teachers. I trust he would find out ways and means of according necessary help to be rendered to these teachers.

Mrs. Abernam Gnanasikhamony: Sir, I support the resolution moved by Mr. Kuruvilla. It has often been stated on the floor of the House that the lot of the aided school teachers should be improved. It is a pity that these aided school teachers are not given any favourable treatment in respect of their grants. In this connexion I have to submit that the Director of Public Instruction deserves congratulation in respect of one matter. Many teachers who have been receiving grants of 3 or 4 rupees till 1934 have been helped by him. The dearness allowance which were given to the Government school teachers since some months back should also be given to the aided school teachers as well. A labourer gets from half a rupee to 4 fannams per diem. This wage is being demanded by a labourer. But an aided school teacher gets Rs. 8 by way of allowance and such a person has to support sometimes a big family of 7 or 8 children. He has a status too to maintain. So, my earnest appeal is that this time at least their difficulty should be favourably considered by the authorities. With these words I support the resolution.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: In supporting this resolution, I should say at the outset that this is a matter in which there will be no difference of opinion as to the merit of the case. But the only difficulty may be in regard to the funds. The grant-in-aid school teachers are really the people who shape the minds of the future generation of this State. At an impressionable age, the children go to the schools and they get rather the earliest idea of

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their duties in life. It is not a question of mere teaching the language that I have in view. But owing to the very serious and important work that these teachers are expected to do, it is only equitable and fair that their hard lot should be improved. At present these teachers certainly do not get sufficient to maintain their body and soul together. I have known instances where in some of the schools, where the children are fed out of charity, some teachers look with greedy eyes on the light eatables supplied to the pupils. Under these circumstances, it is but reasonable that the persons who teach these children must also be in a position to exercise their duties in a normal manner. I am sure that if the Director of Public Instruction happens to be on this side of the House he will use his melodious eloquence to champion the cause of these school teachers. It may be said from the other side that it is all a question of funds. I grant that position. If that is the only thing needed, then my humble submission is that funds should be provided in any possible manner, either by way of voluntary subscriptions from the non-officials if the need arises or by some other method.

President: What is the number involved ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: 13,000.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Then that works at the rate Rs. 2 per head and the amount will come to Rs. 26,000 per month which is nearly $2\frac{2}{3}$ lakhs per annum. Who is there to dispute the truth of my assertion that children who come to receive instructions from grant-in-aid teachers have to be trained properly and that imposes a responsibility on the Government to look to the welfare of the teachers of the State. So, my humble suggestion is that funds should be found either by direct budgeting by Government or by raising voluntary subscriptions or donations from any agency whatsoever including the non-officials, so as to meet the necessary expenditure. With these words I support the resolution.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: This is not at all a new subject in the annals of the history of our Legislature. Every year this subject is being tackled by the members on this side of the House and our submission has all along been for the raising of the allowance of the aided school teachers. There is no necessity for asking for statistics in regard to this matter. My only request is that the House should be asked to vote upon this question straight away rather than having a discussion like this.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Sir, my position in this matter is quite unenviable. I have the greatest sympathy for the teachers and I am sure Government are also anxious to do their best in the present distress. It is primarily with that view that the Government member forwarded a request for a supplementary grant to give

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[Mr. A. Gopala Menon]

the 800 odd teachers, out of 1472 men that now remain without any aid, the usual aid. About 600 more in that category will have to be brought under the provision next year. That would mean another lakh of rupees which would have to be sanctioned by Government for the purpose of helping all the teachers who are working in aided schools and who have not received any grant-in-aid. The present proposal is to increase the grants given to these teachers from Rs. 8 to 10, from 10 to 12, from 12 to 14 and so on. There are also various other amounts of grants given by Government to teachers in many grades of schools, Malayalam middle schools, Tamil middle schools and Sanskrit schools and so on. I am sure that the honourable mover of this resolution does not contend that these teachers also are not doing as important and as useful a work as the teachers who get 8 rupees grant at the present time. Therefore, the question has larger financial implication which it is difficult to estimate at this moment. There is first of all a large number of teachers who are still remaining without any aid from Government. There is a large number of primary school teachers, the majority of whom get only 8 rupees. There are still another set of men in Malayalam and Tamil middle schools who get varying sums from Rs. 6 to 8 as sewing and music teachers, Arabic munshis etc. There are also teachers in Sanskrit schools, those in receipt of no aid and those who receive an aid varying from Rs. 5 to 10. The basis on which additional grant is to be sanctioned is put down as the great service which these teachers are rendering to the State and the very low remuneration they are getting for that work. I do not know how far these amounts will have to be increased to provide enough to meet all these demands.

It has been said that the question of employment and the responsibility of Government for improving the lot of the teachers by a small addition are not quite relevant and so on. I do not personally raise those matters at the moment. Because, the basis on which additional help is now sought to be made is not the same as the basis on which relief has been given to departmental employees. But the implication is altogether wide and far too wide to deter Government from immediate acceptance of a proposition which appeals to all people from the need which the teachers now feel and the dire distress with which they are faced. It is however not easy to forget that there are employers between the teachers and the Government. There are a few employers perhaps who pay something over and above the grant that is paid by Government. But there are employers who pay only as much as half or three-fourths of the grant paid on behalf of the teachers. We cannot therefore forget that what we now offer to pay the teachers would be checked on the way and reduced to some extent before these additional

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bonuses reach the hands of those they are intended to benefi t There are greater difficulties in the way of assessing the financial implications of the problem. Even granting that the teachers would get 2 rupees extra grant as the resolution asks for, can it stop there? Nevertheless, as I said, the assessment of the liability on behalf of the various types of teachers and various grades of teachers employed in over two thousand schools is itself a serious task. It is also likely that on the same bais of rendering valuable services to the State, a large number of other employees not directly in the Government service might come farward with similar demands. Therefore, my first difficulty is that this resolution is far too vague, far too comprehensive to be accepted without a proper examination and without careful scrutiny.

Probably there is a point about the term "aided" which is part of the wording of the resolution. The mover himself will be the first to admit that Tamil school teachers render equally important service in the sense they are responsible for the education of a good number of pupils in several parts of the State. They are responsible for the education of a good number of pupils in several parts of the State. The terms "aided" is now used in a broad sense, as an alternative to the word 'departmental'. Therefore schools, which do not receive any aid whatsoever also come within the operation of this resolution. The term "aided" is a very wide one. So, all non-departmental schools which do not at present receive any aid whatsoever can also claim to come under this category. There are Malayalam schools, Tamil schools, Malayalam High Schools, Malayalam Middle Schools and so on, and they all can come within the scope of this resolution. The resolution fixes no basic limit within which this grant should be confined. In the matter of departmental schools and departmental officers, a maximum of Rs. 20 has been fixed for a person to become eligible for the dearness allowance of Rs. 2. No such limit is contemplated within the scope of this resolution and therefore it is likely to create great difficulties in the way of its application. Taking this wider interpretation into account I must admit that I have no figuers to go upon ; and there is no sort of limit that can be fixed.

President : It is now time for the adjournment motion.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : Sir, "I move that the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the disparaging effect of certain unfounded statements contained in the 1941 Census Report of Travancore, which have cast aspersions on (1) the womenfolk of Travancore following the Marumakkathayam system of inheritance and (2) the Sanatanists in their attitude towards the

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